

Caledonia Brigade, which is the most tedious harassing and expensive transport in the Indian Country the business of that Dep^{tmt} which does not yield 100 Packs of Furs requiring this year no less than 80 officers & men whereas according to my present view of the subject Forty of all descriptions would answer the purpose. My plan would therefore be to forward the New Caledonia outfit in two Boats & thirteen men in company with the Saskatchewan Brigade; from Edmonton cross over to Fort Assiniboine in three or Four Days then proceed in two Boats to Henry's House in the mountain in Ten Days; thence by Horses to Buffalo Dung Lake ... in Two Days; thence by Land or Water to the head of Frazer's River in Three Days and thence by a fine bold stream to the different Posts. The returns to be taken out in like manner. The only objection appears to be the risk of damaging the Furs in the transport by Horses ...

... Friday, April 22nd [1825] Started as early as it was possible to distinguish the Stones in the Rapids, found the Water had risen about 3 feet in the course of the Night. Saw large quantities of Beaver Cuttings which had drifted down the various streams falling into the Main River, indeed I never beheld such numerous vestiges of Beaver and am satisfied that if a party of 20 good Trappers would pass a year in this neighbourhood and employ their time well they would make great hunts. Arrived at the Boat Encampment west end of the [Athabasca] Portage at 10 A.M. where I found a few lines from M^r Laroque dated East end of the Portage 2nd Inst. That Gentleman might have saved himself the trouble of writing for all the information his Letter conveys as I never saw a document in which there is such a dearth of news or interesting matter; this is very thoughtless inconsiderate and disobliging as he must have been well aware of my anxiety to know what has been doing for these last Six Months on the West side the Mountain the little he does, say is by no means cheering; in the first place he can give us no Provisions so that we must have to fast 4 or 5 Days; in the second place the Horses will not start from the other side the portage until the latter end of the Month